LALITPUR: Internalizing the universal theme ‘OUR RIGHTS OUR FREEDOMS ALWAYS,’ the National Human Rights Commission celebrated the 67th International Human Rights Day by organizing various programs at the Central Office as well as all Regional and Sub-Regional Offices on December 10, 2015.

Speaking at a program organized to mark the occasion in the Central Office, Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, as the Chief Guest of the program, stated that government is fully committed to provide necessary assistance to the NHRC to fulfill the constitutional mandates for the protection and promotion of human rights of Nepali people.

‘The pervasive challenge before the government is to reflect human rights in its all policy, plan and program and translate them into actions in practical term so as to institutionalize democracy and good governance,’ PM Oli added.

PM Oli also expressed his confidence that the government is inculcating concerted efforts to give passage to the current political stalemate by building consensus through consultations and dialogues with agitating political parties in the Tarai-Madhes.

Seeking support of political and non-political actors in safeguarding human rights in the country, PM Oli mentioned that the government is committed to take the responsibility of expediting the post-quake reconstruction and rehabilitation activities.

Addressing the program, NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma remarked that equality, dignity, political stability to ensure justice, good-governance, sustainable development, active participation, peace and security, rule of law and subduing of impunity are the chief elements for the respect of human rights.

Adding that the Commission has internalized ‘Human Rights for all in Every Household, a Base of Development and Peace’ as the slogan of the Commission for the period of six years, Chairperson Sharma said ‘the need of the hour is that all state actors, organizations, communities and citizens ought to be committed towards human rights with perseverance from their own field.’

Chairperson Sharma also expressed his confidence that the Government of Nepal would pay serious attention toward full implementation of the NHRC recommendations of the past.

Continued on page 2
Citing the problems of deepening humanitarian crisis and deteriorating human rights situation still remaining unheeded with the difficulty lying ahead due to the blockade at the Indo-Nepal border, Chairperson Sharma drew the attention of the national and international communities, agitating parties and the government toward the current situation of the country including burgeoning humanitarian crisis that the Nepalese citizens are facing.

Chairperson Sharma expressed his firm confidence about the expediting the work of transitional mechanisms viz. Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Inquiry on Disappeared Persons (CoID) which would pave ways to resolve the cases related to the armed conflict period and transitional justice delivery.

The Chairperson, in his remark, also drew the attention of all the concerned towards advancing the enactment process of the Bill related National Reconstruction Authority for the protection of human rights of the earthquake survivors.

Mentioning about the implementation status of the recommendations on human rights concerns committed in the past following the UPR session held in recent past, Chairperson Sharma urged the Government of Nepal to act seriously on evading the delay in submitting the periodic treaty body report in time.

Sharing about the Commission being successful in attaining re-accreditation with ‘A’ status category in the list of human rights Commissions worldwide, Chairperson Sharma said, ‘despite numerous challenges lying ahead, we have been working with great deal of determination and persistence to be able to send in the positive message in international level through its mandated role.’

On the occasion, welcoming the Chief Guest and other distinguished guests, Commissioner and Spokesperson Mohna Ansari drew concern toward deteriorating human rights situation in Tarai districts due to the prolonged protest.

Pointing out the threat posed to the rights defenders and journalists in the protest-porn districts, she urged that it is the state obligation to safeguard the rights of citizens.

At the program, Mr. José Assalino, the Director of ILO-Nepal commended the work and achievement of the Commission despite challenges.

Meanwhile, Surya Deuja, Promotion and Advocacy Division Head threw light on the contribution made by the awardees of the Dayaram Pariyar Human Rights Memorial Award in safeguarding human rights of the people in the country.

On the occasion, PM Oli conferred this year’s Dayaram Pariyar Human Rights Memorial Award on Bidhya Laxmi Rajbhandari and Matrika Devkota. Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Coordinator, Human Rights Magna-Meet, 2015, Mr. Gopal Lamsal, Chairperson, NGO Federation-Nepal, Mr. Man Bahadur Nepali, Chairperson National Dalit Commission and Ms. Manu Humagain, Acting Chairperson, National Women Commission also made their remarks and observations on the occasion.

Former NHRC Commissioners including Kapil Shrestha and Subodh Pyakurel, Hon. Ministers, Excellencies, Officials of UNDP and Diplomatic Missions, Government officials, representatives of Security Agencies, representatives of human rights organizations, representatives of NGOs, INGOs and CSOs, representatives of professional Organizations, media persons and students among others participated in the program.

Every year, Human Rights Day is celebrated across the world on 10 December. On this day, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations which was up with virtuous lines on inherent dignity and equality of all human descendants and remains as the source of inspiration ever since.
KATHMANDU: The NHRC presented its 13th annual report of the Fiscal Year 2014 (July) -2015(July) to Rt. Hon. President Vidhya Devi Bhandari amid a program at the Rastrapati Bhawan on 9th December, 2015. On the occasion, Rt. Hon. President thanked all the officials at the Commission for their hard work and dedication to duty.

Commending the work of the Commission through various critical phases, Rt. Hon. President Vidhya Devi Bhandari urged the Commission to widen the work filed for the broader protection of emerging human rights of women including the cases related to feticide in the country.

According to the report, the NHRC has received altogether 160 complaints this year in which it has monitored 239 cases and investigated 231 cases. Briefing about key human rights concerns furnished in the annual report-2014/15, Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma apprised Rt Hon. President to different challenges faced by the Commission such as lack of the transitional justice, rising state of impunity, lack of full implementation of the recommendations and lack of physical infrastructures.

The report reads that despite concerted efforts, the human rights situation of the country is in a dismal state. Citing the increasing rate of violation of civil and political rights, it is mentioned in the report that the criminalization in politics and vice versa was very unfortunate.

The report further highlights that though the country has promulgated new constitution, the problems are looming large due to the ongoing agitation in Tarai-Madhesh and the blockade at the Indo-Nepal border resulting acute hardships in the daily life of general citizens.

The political parties ought to organize their activities complying with the democratic norms and values, the report further reads.

With regard to perennial problems endured by the NHRC, Chairperson Sharma reiterated that the NHRC activities have been left with impact due to the ineffective implementation of its recommendations, existing resource crunch and deplorable physical infrastructures.

Commissioner and Spokesperson Mohna Ansari, Commissioner Sudeep Pathak, Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai and other staff members were also present at the program.
LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission by calling an emergency meeting at its office has condemned the incident of attack on the NHRC monitoring team by the protestors at Jutpani of Nawalpur, Sarlahi on 3rd December 2015. The team led by Human Rights Officer Neetu Gadtaula including Mandira Shrestha, Biva Dhungana and Shreeram Karki was deployed to monitor the ongoing protest program in Madhesh while the protestors allegedly manhandled the team and torched their vehicle, camera, important documents and jackets.

It is well known the Commission has conducted on-the-sop monitoring at the leadership of the Commissioners in order to fulfill or cause to fulfill human rights during the Madhesh movement and publicized the factual and impartial report. The Commission has urged the government and the agitating parties to be sensitive towards human rights, general citizens, journalists, human rights defenders and to immediately stop attacking ambulance plying for humanitarian service thereby causing the loss of human and properties and to organize their program in peaceful manner.

The Commission is seriously concerned over such a barbaric incident at a time when the central leaderships of the agitating UDMF called on the Commission and put forward both written and verbal appeal before the Commission to monitor protest program from human rights perspective. The Commission, therefore, urges the Government of Nepal to immediately probe the incident and take legal action against the accused involved in the attack on the general people, media persons, human rights defenders and persons deployed on humanitarian services as per the Constitution of Nepal, UN Declaration-1998 with regard to the protection human rights defenders including the international human rights conventions and existing law.

Reminding the unhindered monitoring in the past, the Commission has urged the government and the agitating parties to be sensitive towards human rights, general citizens, journalists, human rights defenders and persons deployed on humanitarian services.

Programming in Tarai Madhesh

LALITPUR: Condemning the Nawalpur incident, the commission held a briefing program to collect the stock of the information from the monitoring team deployed in Terai Madhesh to conduct the on going Terai agitation for a long time.

Cadres of the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM) manhandled the NHRC monitoring team comprising Human Rights Officer Neetu Gadtaula, assistants Indira Shrestha and Bhiwa Dhungana including driver Shree Karki. Team including driver Shree Ram Karki has sustained injuries in the incident while discharging their duties. A team was on its way to Malangawa from Nawalpur.

Cadres of the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM) have also torched a vehicle (Ba 7 Cha 7476), of the commission in Nawalpur, Sarlahi on December 3. The vehicle has been completely destroyed in the arson.

In the wake of the incident, therefore, the commission invited the leaders of the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM) at the commission and held discussion. The commission asked the front leader to ensure the safety of the monitoring team while on duty. The commission resumed the monitoring after the leader of the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM) promised to cooperate the monitoring team to continue the mandated responsibilities to monitor and investigate the incidents of human rights violations in the agitation hitting the Terai districts for over 100 days now.
NHRC resumes Monitoring as per the Constitutional Mandates

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has conducted series of discussions separately with the monitoring teams, staff members of the regional and Sub Regional Offices of the Commission, leaders and cadres of the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM) after the protestors manhandled its staffers and torched a vehicle at Jutpani, Nawalpur in Sarlahi on December 3, 2015. At the discussion, Front leaders expressed their sadness and committed to cooperate the monitoring teams in the days ahead. The Front leaders also demanded probe into the Nawalpur incident.

Speaking at the discussion held with the SLMM leaders and the intellectuals, Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma said that the Commission would continue monitoring and investigation on the ongoing obstruction in Tarai-Madhesh as per the constitutional responsibility.

Earlier, the Commission has said that it would stop expediting monitoring until and unless the safe environment is made for monitoring the Tarai agitation in the days ahead. After leaders of agitating parties, by issuing a press release, promised to cooperate with the Commission in carrying out its constitutional duties, the Commission has resumed its monitoring ongoing protests in Tarai-Madhesh.

On the occasion, Lakman Lal Karna of Saddhawana Party, Ram Naresh Raya of Tarai Madhesh Saddhawana Party, Lalbabu Raut of Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal from Madhesh-based parties and Tula Narayan Sah of Nepal Madhes Foundation and Vijay Kant Karna of Jagrit Nepal, representing civil society, participated in the talks with the Commission. The SLMM leaders urged the Commission to conduct impartial monitoring and stressed on publicizing the monitoring report upon conducting close monitoring on the activities of both security agencies and protesting parties.

At the discussion, Commissioners and Acting Secretary were also present. Protests in the Tarai-Madhesh have been going on for over 120 days. At least 50 civilians and nine police personnel have been killed in protests.

Continued from page 4

NHRC condemns...

Commission condemns the incident of arson and vandalism caused to the ambulance ferrying the patients, setting the person alive into fire, and vandalizing the vehicles laden with medicines. The Commission also urges the protest organizers to find the accused of attack perpetrated against all human rights defenders.

Similarly, the Commission would like to draw the attention of the government and the concerned authorities toward right to life, right to health, right to education including the blockade on food and very essential goods and services including the safety and protection of the human rights defenders, media persons and the persons on duty to discharge humanitarian services.

Meanwhile, all monitoring teams have been called back to office for the moment until the conducive environment is created for them to discharge their responsibilities as per the provisions laid out in the constitution. The Commission concludes that the independent monitoring has been adversely impacted by such incident at a time when the United Nations including the international communities have time and time again expressed their concern over the agitation in Tarai-Madhesh.

Monitoring expedited in Protest-hit Districts

SARLAHI: The National Human Rights Commission has commenced monitoring the agitation launched by the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM) in Sarlahi district.

The team led by Commissioner Sudip Pathak has started monitoring the agitation launched by the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM) in Sarlahi district. The team received the stock of information about the situation of district from leaders and cadres of the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM), injured protestors, civil society front liners and media persons among others.

In the discussion held in Malangawa, the team received the stock of information about the situation of district from leaders and cadres of the Samyukta Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha (SLMM), injured protestors, civil society front liners and media persons among others.

The monitoring team was informed about the Nawalpur incident, arrested Madhesi Front’s leaders and cadres, excessive force used during the demonstration, worsening human rights situation including that of business, education and health.

Earlier, the Commission had withdrawn its monitoring teams deployed in Tarai-Madhesh citing growing insecurity.
LALITPUR: The attention of the National Human Rights Commission has been drawn to prolonged Tarai crisis and the problems endured by the general citizens in their daily life.

At a discussion held between Home Minister Shakti Basnet and the NHRC Officials, the Commission apprised Minister Basnet to severe impact left on the enjoyment of human rights due to prolonged Tarai agitation, violation of human rights and inquired about the necessary homework of the government for the rehabilitation of the earthquake survivors. The Commission also urged Home Minister to resolve the Tarai crisis at the earliest through dialogue and consensus.

On the occasion, a comprehensive discussion was held on the ongoing agitation in Tarai, security arrangement and human rights situation in Tarai- Madhesh. The NHRC Officials urged the government for the respect and protection of human rights.

On the occasion, NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma urged that the state authorities should be more serious about protecting and enforcing human rights as the guardian of general public.

During the discussion, Minister Basnet responded that the police have been mobilized to ease unhindered mobility on highways, supply system as well as protecting the lives of general people and public properties. He also assured that government has been seriously working to resolve the current crisis through dialogues.

Minister Basnet also briefed that the government has already started rehabilitating earthquake victims as well as distributing warm clothes to them for immediate relief.

He also assured the Commission that the government was serious to abide by the suggestions, recommendation and directives of the Commission.

At the discussion, Commissioners Sudip Pathak, Mohma Ansari, Home Secretary Narayan Gopal Malego and NHRC Acting Secretary Surya Bahadur Deuja were present.

KHOTANG: A human rights rally was organized in Diktel, Khotang district on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day on 10th December, 2015.

The rally took to the various thoroughfares of Diktel bazaar and converged into an assembly in the conference hall of the District Development Committee. All the participants carried placards with various human rights messages and NHRC slogan ‘Human Rights for all in Every Household, a base of Peace and Development.’ Around 400 participants participated in the rally.
LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has been continuously monitoring the human rights situation of the earthquake victims. Various monitoring missions have accomplished monitoring the situation of the earthquake survivors in the quake-hit districts including Sindhuli, Ramechhap, Dolakha, Sindhupalchok, Kavrepalanchok, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Makwanpur, Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur.

The monitoring teams including the Human Rights Mobile Camps on the ground have taken the stock of information with regard to the death toll rising in Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Kavrepalanchok and Ramechhap districts due to cold weather. The Commission has, therefore, urged the government to immediately make the warm clothes available by air particularly to those languishing in the temporary shelters in mountain districts. The quake victims are learnt to have been suffering from acute chillness as because they can’t go to the market area to fetch essential goods due to the fuel crisis.

Despite the fact that the quake victims have received the relief amount RS 15,000 distributed by the government in most of the Village Development Committees (VDCs), the earthquake survivors in Sindhuli, Ramechhap, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha and Lalitpur districts haven’t been distributed the allocated amount as the immediate relief. Similarly, though the Government has advanced the process of distribution of RS 10,000 through concerned VDCs to the victims for purchasing warm clothes, most quake victims haven’t been able to receive the amount due to the absence of VDC secretary, the pretext made on the ground of unavailability of factual data, heavy load work and dispute emerged in the local level, as per the monitoring.

The monitoring report has pointed out that earthquake victims’ shelter in Chuchepati of Kathmandu, Naubise-Laharepauwa of Rasuwa and Indrayanichaur of Nuwakot lack toilets and drinking water. Similarly, Sanothimi, Changu and Bhelukhel of Bhaktapur are among the worst managed shelters needing immediate attention. The women are the most affected due to the lack of protection and gender related problems.

Likewise, since the locals remain unaware of the new building code announced by the government, they are deprived of well managed shelters. The monitoring has also found that the condition of children extremely pitiful at temporary learning shelters due to cold weather. Similarly, the health posts are running out of medicines whereas medics are also unavailable when the locals seek services.

The Commission has urged the civil society, political parties and all the concerned authorities pledge necessary support in the relief distribution and other aid programs stepped up for the quake survivors. The monitoring team was comprised the Commissioner Prakash Osti and other high level officers of the Commission.
HRs Rally organized to mark the 67th Int’l HRs Day

Collaborative Effort vital for Safeguarding Human Rights,
Chairperson

KATHMANDU: Inaugurated by the NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, a Human Rights Rally was organized to mark 67th International Human Rights Day on 9th December, 2015.

This year, the program is being organized in coordination with Beyond Beijing Committee, a non-governmental organization working for women rights, with the slogan ‘human rights and inclusiveness; equal women participation in all sector and level of state’. The Closing function of the rally was addressed by Chairperson Sharma as the chief guest and other different Human Rights Activists in a representative way.

The rally starting from Bhrikuti Mandap (Exhibition Road) went round to thoroughfare of downtown Kathmandu and converged into an assembly at Shanti Vatika, Ratnapark, Kathmandu.

Addressing the concluding part of the rally, Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma remarked that the collaborative effort of all stakeholder agencies including the state bodies, political parties, NGOs and CSOs is inevitable for building an environment for the enjoyment of human rights for all.

NHRC Commissioner and Spokesperson Mohna Ansari, Shanta Laxmi Shrestha, Coordinator of Human Rights National Magna Meet-2015, Chair of NGO Federation Sharmila Karki, Krishna Waiba, Secretary, Beyond Beijing Committee, human rights activists Charan Prasain and Krishna Subedi also spoke on the occasion.
Human Rights Magna Meet -2015 concludes, a 26-pt Declaration Issued

LALITPUR: A meeting was organized jointly by the NHRC and 7th Human Rights National Magna Meet (HRNMM) Secretariat/Beyond Beijing Committee by inviting media people at the NHRC premises on 22 December, 2015.

In the meeting, Mr. Devika Timilsina, Coordinator of Declaration Committee handed over the 7th HRNMM’s 26 points Declaration to Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma amidst the speaker, member and staff members of NHRC, media people, advisors, former coordinators, staff member of BBC and requested all to act on materializing it progressively.

The Magna Meet issued 26-point declaration taking all human rights and humanitarian laws, ILO conventions and protocols that Nepal is party into account. The declaration also comprises various issues of women rights including political, economic, cultural participation.

It calls for institutional and successful implementation of federal democratic republic; making policies, rules, laws and structures according to the declaration of socialism driven state in the constitution; beginning of effective works regarding Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappearance. The declaration further urges for 50 percent participation of women till 2030 by ending gender disparity, discrimination and violence.

The Declaration demands proportional inclusion of women, indigenous nationalities, minorities, Madhesi, Muslim, Dalit and marginalized communities in policy making process of the State; end to the discrimination on passing of citizenship between son and daughter; access to quality education; guarantee of rights of persons with disabilities; delineation of constituencies based on population as demanded by Madhesi people, addressing of federal demarcation, social security of senior citizens and constitutional guarantee of livelihood; end of untouchability and caste discrimination; end of violence against children; guarantee of rights of domestic help and immigrant labor women; establishment of identity of third gender and sexual minorities.

At the meeting, on behalf of MOC, Ms. Sharmila Karki and Mr. Charan Prasain highlighted the achievements made and requested NHRC to follow-up on implementation of the declaration.

Mr. Gauri Pradhan, Former NHRC Commissioner and an advisor of the 7th HRNMM expressed appreciation and requested to focus on prevention of violation of socio-economic and cultural rights as many people are suffering from the lack of access to food, education and health. He also expressed his happiness over the campaign 50:50 lunched and he himself being the part of concept development and vowed to continue be a campaigner. On behalf of Media Committee he expressed commitment to continue monitoring on translating of the Declaration into reality.

Mr. Devika Timilsina, Coordinator of Declaration Committee read out the press release prepared for press and requested media to disseminate so that it can create awareness about the human rights.

Meanwhile, Chairperson Sharma, making his concluding remark, expressed his deep appreciation for organizing the huge Magna Meet in a precedent way within such a short period of time unbelievably in a professional and systematic manner. He vowed to pledge support for the struggle in achieving human rights and for implementing the resolution of the 7th HRNMM. He also urged both the government and civil society organizations to address the current Tarai situation. Thanking all involved in the campaign, Chairperson Sharma declared the end of 67th International Human Rights Day and 7th HRNMM. There were 57 participants present in the meeting.
I, on behalf of National Human Rights Commission of Nepal and also on my own behalf, welcome the Chief-Guest Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli including all invitee guests for kindly accepting our invitation to the celebration organized to mark the International Human Rights Day -2015.

Today, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights-1948 has completed its 67th year. The UDHR is proclaimed as a historically important document closely linked with peace, co-existence and a landmark for protecting the rights and dignity of entire humankind. May this auspicious day inspire us to respect and uphold human rights culture from our heart and soul and in all our actions.

Equality, dignity, political stability to ensure justice, good-governance, sustainable development, active participation, peace and security, rule of law and subduing of impunity are the chief elements for the respect of human rights. The need of the hour is that all state actors, organizations, communities and citizens, therefore, ought to be committed towards this with full perseverance from their own field.

The country has now endorsed new constitution that envisages sustainable development, good-governance, development and prosperity through federal democratic republican governance system. Yet the pervasive transnational problems linger with full of challenges in the country. Following the promulgation of new constitution, the problems of deepening humanitarian crisis and deteriorating human rights situation still remain unheeded with the difficulty lying ahead due to the blockade at the Indo-Nepal border. Inevitably, the government, political parties including all government bodies need to play positive role with sincere efforts inculcated from their end to give an end to such difficulty. The human rights defenders deployed for monitoring and the journalists are working in high risk in crisis-ridden Tarai-Madhesh. I hereby remind you all that the Commission has been investigating into the incidents of human rights violation by the provisioning party.

The Commission has publicized the status report upon conducting monitoring and investigation on the incidents before and after the promulgation of new constitution. I would also like to remind you all that the Commission has drawn the attention of the national and international communities, agitating parties and the government toward the current situation of the country including burgeoning humanitarian crisis that the Nepalese citizens are facing.

Around the beginning of this year, the country suffered from the devastating earthquake that hit the nation on April 25, 2015 including several aftershocks that followed. Now the situation is such that the earthquake survivors are left high and dry with their right to shelter, health, education and livelihood unaddressed yet. Not to mention, the life of general citizens is extremely hit hard due to the shortage of fuel following the agitation in Tarai-Madhesh and cold weather. In this regard, sensing the responsibility toward addressing the problem of earthquake affected, the Commission has been monitoring emerging human rights violation and abuses by establishing human rights mobile camp in 14 different districts mostly affected from the massive earthquake. Similarly, the Commission has drawn the attention of all the concerned towards advancing the enactment process of the act related National Reconstruction Authority for the protection of human rights of the earthquake survivors.

We firmly believe that the establishment of much awaited transitional mechanisms viz. Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Inquiry on Disappeared Persons (CoID) would pave ways to resolve the cases related to the armed conflict period and transitional justice delivery.

‘OUR RIGHTS OUR FREEDOMS ALWAYS’ is the international slogan for marking the international human rights day this year while, in the same context, the Commission has internalized ‘Human Rights for all in Every Household, a Base of Development and Peace’ as the slogan of the Commission for the period of six years. The Commission has been rigorously working to materialize this via Six Year Strategic Plan implemented since 2015. Continued on page 11
Statement by Hon. Justice Anup Raj Sharma...

The state must give special priority to address pervasive gender inequality, violence against women, torture, human trafficking, caste discrimination and easy access to basic right to food, education, health and shelter while the Commission, on the other hand, can’t help but mount pressure on the concerned state actors to fulfill their obligation to ensure these rights. Indeed, devotion to our duties is exceptionally pivotal to fulfill basic rights and dignity of those consumers deprived of essential goods of daily use due to the emergence of difficult situation in the country.

It’s a pleasure to mention here that the Commission has accomplished various activities in strengthening the international level relationships with regard to the protection of human rights together with the appointment of new set of officials at the Commission. In this regard, a bilateral agreement has been signed for the period of 4 years between the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal and National Human Rights Committee of Qatar for the protection of human rights of Qatar based Nepalese migrant workers. Similarly, the Commission participated in a conference on ensuring the rights of senior citizens held in Seoul, Korea in recent past. The conference has unanimously reached a conclusion seeking special initiative from the National Human Rights Institutions to evolve a separate convention that would duly ensure the rights of senior citizens.

This year, Nepal state participated in the UPR session held in UN Human Rights Council for the second time. Nepal as a UN member state is obligated to implement the recommendations and suggestions facilitated during the UPR session. Analyzing the implementation status of the recommendations on human rights concerns committed in the past, therefore, the Government of Nepal ought to act seriously on evading the delay in submitting the periodic treaty body report in time.

The Commission has always embarked upon fulfilling the responsibility to be watchful on the implementation of the commitments related to human rights concerns expressed by the government from time to time and will continue to do so in the days ahead.

Likewise, there is a need for the effective implementation of the fourth five year National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) launched by the government beginning 2014 with the objective to improve overall human rights situation in the country. Indeed, the Commission will discharge constitutional mandates bestowed upon it with regard to monitoring the implementation status of the NHRAP. In this concern, the Commission has spearheaded its monitoring and the promotional activities related to the stipulated action plan. I express my confidence that the Government of Nepal will pay serious attention toward full implementation of the NHRC recommendations of the past.

Realizing the effective implementation of constitutional responsibility to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights in the country, I would like to mention here that the Commission is facing challenges including the lack of physical infrastructures due to the damage caused to its office building by the ravaging earthquake in recent past. Despite this, we have been working with great deal of determination and persistence to be able to send in the positive message in international level through its mandated role. Also, I would like to remind here that the Commission has been successful to attain re-accreditation with ‘A’ status category in the list of human rights Commissions worldwide since the inception period in terms of its independence and autonomy. I take it as a pleasure to honor the inspiration and sincere wishes extended to us from both national and international level in this regard.

Established with concerted effort through vibrant civil society movement, the Commission expects the same kind of support and cooperation from the civil society, human rights activists and media sector for the protection and promotion of human rights in the days to come.

Last but not the least, I am confident that all state organs including security agencies, political parties, professional organizations and agencies, civil society organizations and intellectual circle will provide ample support to develop or cause to develop human rights culture, dignity and respect for human rights from their respective field. Similarly, I would like to heartily felicitate human rights defenders duo Mrs. Bidhya Laxmi Rajbhandari and Mr. Matrika Devkota for receiving ‘Dayaram Pariyar Human Rights Honor’ conferred to them for their wholehearted contribution in the field of human rights. I wish their active role in the protection and promotion of human rights in the days ahead as well.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Chief Guest Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli and all invitee guests for sparing precious time with us despite busy schedule.

Thank you
December 10, 2015, Lalitpur, Nepal

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office
Immediate Justice Delivery urged

LALITPUR: The NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma has said that the NHRC will pledge support to drag the murderer of Krishna Prasad Adhikari of Fujel, Gorkha to justice.

Visiting Bir Hospital to take the stock of the information of the health condition of Gangamaya Adhikari who has been staging hunger strike for a long time, Chairperson Sharma expressed commitment to drag the accused to justice remaining within the jurisdiction of the Commission.

Adding that no one should be deprived of justice, Chairperson said that protection and respect of human rights is possible only when swift delivery of justice is executed.

On the occasion, Gangamaya Adhikari said that last rite of her deceased husband will not be performed until the action against the accused is taken.

Adding that her husband met death fighting for legal justice, she urged the Commission to draw the attention of the concerned lest she could face the same fate as her husband provided the justice is delayed.

Having conducted the investigation on the above incident, the Commission had recommended to the Government of Nepal on April 5, 2009 to prosecute the accused on the case of criminal offense, provide compensation to the family of the victim, and to create environment for the return of the family to their home of habitual residence by providing security to them. The Commission urged the government to execute the commitments expressed to the family of Nanda Prasad Adhikari in the past.

Earlier, the Commission had drawn the attention of the concerned time and again towards the deprivation of the rights to perform the last rites of the deceased Nanda Prasad Adhikari even after the completion of one year of his death.
Discussion taps Impetus on Refugee Protection in Nepal

KATHMANDU: NHRC Nepal and UNHCR NEPAL organized a consultation meeting on 16th December 2015 on various human rights issues of refugees languishing in Nepal. The program was chaired by NHRC Chair Justice Anup Raj Sharma.

At the program, Human Rights of Refugees in Nepal, UNHRC and NHRC works, mandates, collaboration and way forward were interacted.

On the occasion, delivering welcome remarks, Mr. Craig Sanders, representative of UNHCR threw light on the objective and rationale of the program.


Similarly, Luma Bishowkarma, Senior Protection Associate, UNHCR presented a brief presentations on Supreme Court Decisions, the Model draft refugee legislation and the latest UPR process and Recommendations related to refugees.

Following the series of presentation, an open discussion was held on UNHCR and NHRC’s cooperation to improve refugee protection in Nepal.

Report hails Progress on Gender Equality


The Report, authored by a team of competent researchers led by Meena Acharya has been the outcome of collaborative efforts by Nepalese women’s civil society organizations such as SAHAVAGI, Didi Bahini and Feminist Dalit Organisations and supported by UN Women Nepal.

The report analyses the progress and gaps in the implementation of the gender equality agenda in Nepal, establishing an evidence-based, updated record of the situation of women in Nepal between 1995 and 2015.

Focusing on examining three particular areas including violence against women and women’s human rights, resources and capabilities, agency and leadership the report shows that there has been some notable progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the period covered by the report.

According to the report, Nepal’s constitutional and legislative frameworks have become more gender-friendly. Affirmative action laws and policies have improved women’s voice and agency in politics and governance.

The report unveils that gender issues have received increased attention in government development programs, plans, policies and budgets. Similarly, women and girls have improved access to education, reflected in educational and professional outcomes, the report reads.

With significant decline in maternal and child mortality rates, some improvements have also been evident in women’s access to economic resources, including land and house ownership, the report mentions.

The report, however, concludes that much more remains to be done to address the remaining barriers to achieve Sustainable Development Goal of gender parity by 2030.

The report also recommends a series of actions to transform social norms and attitudes, assist women in overcoming structural social and economic barriers to effective participation in the market and to ensure their full participation, voice and agency in all spheres of local and national life.
KATHMANDU: A consultation program on UPR recommendations was jointly convened by the National Human Rights Commission and National Coalition of Children as Zone of Peace and Child Protection (CZOPP) in Kathmandu on 23rd December, 2015.

The main objective of the program was to review the implementation status of the first cycle of the UPR recommendations accepted by the Government of Nepal (GoN) during the UPR session held in the past and the preliminary implementation phase of the UPR recommendations of the second cycle of the UPR session held in recent past. The program also aimed at reviewing the recommendations noted to be implemented prior to sending the report on 31st March, 2016.

At the outset, welcoming the invitee participants, NHRC Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai threw light on the entire human rights scenario of the country including the government initiatives for safeguarding human rights of general citizens with due implementation of the UPR recommendations by the concerned state agencies.

Commending the stock of achievements as well as the remaining challenges of implementing the 96 UPR recommendations accepted during the previous review, Secretary Bhattarai stressed on the importance of equal responsibility of the NHRIs, human rights organizations and civil society organizations together with the concerned state agencies for the implementation of the 148 UPR recommendations facilitated during the last review.

At the program, Human Rights Officer, Shyam Babu Kafle presented on the implementation status of first and Second Cycle of the UPR recommendations with main focus on human rights provisioned through international treaty bodies to which Nepal is a party while Human Rights Officer Badri Subedi facilitated the program.

HR Officer Kafle, in his presentation, threw light on the state obligation to ratify a few significant UN conventions recommended with rationale by NHRIs and other human rights organizations.

Chair of Children as Zone of Peace and Child Protection (CZOPP), Krishna Subedi presented on UPR recommendations with main focus on the rights of child.

Mr. Subedi reviewed the recommendation made on the Act related to child rights and several other recommendations accepted by the GoN for the implementation for safeguarding the rights of child. Examining the recommendations put under consideration, Mr. Subedi stressed on necessary initiatives of the government to sign the Palermo Protocol (OP3CRC).

Representing the GoN, Joint Secretary Ramesh Dhakal made his presentation on efforts made by the GoN to implement the UPR recommendations facilitated through First Cycle of UPR Session held in 2011 and necessary groundwork stepped up by the government for the implementation of the recommendations made via UPR session in 2015.

Underscoring the best international practices, Secretary Dhakal observed the UPR session as a platform for helping reform the existing mechanisms in the country. He also urged the non-state actors to prepare the factual report upon collaboration and coordination built among the non-governmental organizations.

With regard to the 18 recommendations put under noted, Secretary Dhakal clarified that a few recommendations with main focus on the rights of child.

Mr. Subedi reviewed the recommendation made on the Act related to child rights and several other recommendations accepted by the government for implementation for safeguarding the rights of child. Examining the recommendations put under consideration, Mr. Subedi stressed on necessary initiatives of the government to sign the Palermo Protocol (OP3CRC).

Representing the GoN, Joint Secretary Ramesh Dhakal made his presentation on efforts made by the GoN to implement the UPR recommendations facilitated through First Cycle of UPR Session held in 2011 and necessary groundwork stepped up by the government for the implementation of the recommendations made via UPR session in 2015.

Underscoring the best international practices, Secretary Dhakal observed the UPR session as a platform for helping reform the existing mechanisms in the country. He also urged the non-state actors to prepare the factual report upon collaboration and coordination built among the non-governmental organizations.

With regard to the 18 recommendations put under noted, Secretary Dhakal clarified that a few
Consultation on UPR ...

the state to work out on many fundamental rights by taking the UPR recommendations as the guiding principles, Secretary Dhakal observed.

Unveiling the extension of time limitation from 35 days to six months for complaint registration on the incident of rape, he said in conformity that the government is all set to implement the policy wise recommendations sent by the National Human Rights Commission.

With regard to ratification of the international conventions, Secretary Dhakal mentioned that preliminary assessment was needed to be the party to those treaty bodies recommended.

Secretary Dhakal also mentioned that ILO report is already submitted by the government and confirmed about the submission of CERD report of the government to the concerned committee well in time.

Following the presentation, the participants representing Child Reform Center, Consortium Nepal, Child Welfare Committee, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Local Development, Ministry for Land Reform, European Union, Red Cross, National Women’s Commission and National Human Rights Commission among others provided their feedbacks and comments on UPR recommendations pertaining to various human rights concerns.

NHRC Commissioner Mohna Ansari, as the chair of the program, made her concluding remark on the program.

‘The larger consultation held among good number of stakeholders as such gives us the feeling that we are at a stage where human rights culture transcends to what we have often imagined,’ Commissioner Ansari said.

‘The implementing agencies however, ought to engage robustly in implementing the recommendations accepted by the GoN in both cycles of UPR review session and also embark upon reviewing the recommendation put under consideration with ample rationale,’ Commissioner Ansari urged.

‘When new constitution comes into effect, we’ll have wider responsibility to examine whether the laws in enforcement are rights friendly. Supreme Court decisions, on the other hand, are vital support to have them as laws in due course,’ Commissioner Ansari observed.

‘While NHRC is monitoring on the implementation status of the UPR recommendations as per the mandates provisioned through the constitution, the NGOs and CSOs need to be proactive to have larger consultation to mount pressure on the state actors for the due implementation of the UPR recommendations,’ Commissioner Ansari observed.

Commissioner Ansari, however, expressed her dismay over the district level state actors being unaware about the UPR recommendations and the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) introduced by the government itself. She called on all to instill awareness with regard to this.

Chair of CZOOP, Krishna Subedi delivered vote of thanks and expressed his expectation for future collaboration and coordination to have the UPR recommendations on various human rights concerns implemented in full.

At the program, NHRC Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal and the representatives of various Government Ministries, NHRIs, NGOs, Child Rights Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and European Union were present.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States. The UPR is a significant innovation of the Human Rights Council which is based on equal treatment for all countries. It provides an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. The UPR also includes a sharing of best human rights practices around the globe.

Continued from page 16

Participants providing their comments and suggestions on the implementation status of UPR recommendations
KAPILVASTU: Having the theme ‘Human Rights for all in Every Household, a Base of Development and Peace,’ as the slogan of the Commission and international theme “Our Right Our Freedom Always” for this year, NHRC Sub-Regional Office Butwal organized an interactive program on human rights situation in collaboration with Accountability Monitoring Committee, Mahuri Home Kapilvastu and NNDSWD on the occasion of the 67th International Human Rights Day on 10th of December 2015 in Kapilvastu district.

At the program, Coordinator of Accountability Monitoring Committee, Mr Nanda Ram Poudel presented the working paper on the existing human rights situation in the district. In response to the presentation, the participants made their comments on prevalent Terai-Madesh protest and raised their concern in unison with regard to the hardship faced by the general citizens due to the shortage of essential daily items like LPG gas, fuel, medicine and fertilizer etc.

On the occasion, the chief district officer of Kapilvastu Mr. Abdul Kalam Kha informed the participants that the district administration has become more cognizant and alert for the proportional distribution system of essential goods and the effort made by the district administration to prevent and control the widespread black marketing by mobilizing the investigation committee at the disposal of the district administration.

Mr. Sahim Aahamad Nadbi of Jamiya Sirjul Ujum Safia urged that education ought to be provided in mother language as guaranteed by the Constitution of Nepal. He also urged for the allocation of estimated budget that meets the requirement to fulfil the objective. On the occasion, he presented a letter of memorandum to the District Administration Office, DDC, Accountability Monitoring Committee and NHRC Sub-regional Office Butwal.

At the program, Deputy Director of NHRC Sub-Regional Office Deepak Jung Dhwaj Karki remarked that the prolonged Terai-Madesh protest has been the root cause of the emergence of a number of human rights violation such as the violation of right to life including the shortage of necessary commodities. He called on the state bodies to be alert and respect human rights. He mentioned that UDHR 1948 was adopted enshrined with virtuous lines with the provision of peace and development and not war. He urged the government and agitating parties to reach out to the solution to the problem of political stalemate through meaningful dialogue and consensus.

At the program, NHRC Sub Regional Office, Accountability Monitoring Committee (Butwal), Chief District Officer of Kapilvastu Mr. Abdul Kalam Kha, Coordinator of Accountability Monitoring Committee, Mr. Nanda Ram Poudel, Superintendent of Armed Police Force Mr. Bishnu Kumar K.C, Head of District Development Committee, Head of Mahuri Home Mr. Rabi Thakur, Mr. Ram Dayal Thakur, Sahim Aahamad Nadbi of Jamiya Sirjul Ujum Safia, Advocate Mr. Bhola B.K of Nepal Bar Association, Chief of Women and Children Office Kalawati Ojha, Maya Gyawali from Friends Organization spoke on the occasion.

At the program, 200 participants including DDC, District Administrative Office, Superintendent of Police, Women’s Groups, Students, Teachers, Legal Processionals, Human Rights activist among others were present.
NHRC Nepal invited Former NHRC Chair Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay including Commissioners and interacted on emerging human rights issues following the Tarai –Madhesh agitation.

On the occasion of 16 Days of Activism Campaign, Commission organized a coordination meeting on Advancing Rights of Sexual and Gender Minorities with Sexually Minority Communities of Nepal.

The former security personnel including those of Nepal Army, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, National Investigation Department, injured and the families of the martyrs of conflict era visited the commission and presented their grievances before the commission about their issues regarding their livelihood.

NHRC Nepal organized an interaction program on the draft report of “Human Trafficking Report 2013-14” with the governmental and non-governmental stakeholders today at NHRC. In the program, NHRC Consultant Dr. Gobinda Subedi briefed the main aspects of the reports followed by the comments & advices of the stakeholders in the program.

KATHMANDU: NHRC Nepal invited and held an interaction with Health Minister Ram Janam Chaudhary at the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP).

The meeting discussed interacted with Health and Population Minister Ram Janam Chaudhary regarding the shortage of medical supplies and other health rights issues emerged together with other humanitarian crisis due to blockade.

The meeting discussed on the medicine shortage and health rights issues artificially created following the border blockade imposed by India.

Members of erstwhile People’s Liberation Army, declared as “Disqualified” called on the commission and presented a memorandum including their grievances to the Commission.
LALITPUR: On the occasion of the 67th International Human Rights Day-2015, the Commission honored five of its staff members for having the Commission get through auditing clearance over arrears as indicated by auditing of Auditor General’s Office up to this year. The felicitation of the staff members of NHRC came as per the decision of Financial Arrear Monitoring Committee of the Ministry of Finance.

Among those honored were NHRC Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai as the best administrative executive among those audited and other staff members including Bishnu Prasad Kharel (Account Officer), Jitendra Karki (Accountant), Rara Karmacharya (Accountant) and Gyanendra Maharjan (Assistant).

The awardees’ wholehearted workmanship had made the Commission successful to fall in the group of those offices as categorized on the basis of the Irregularities Clearances up to 63% by the Assessment and Monitoring Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal. The Committee has categorized the offices as the Excellent, Best, Average and Low group category on the basis of the percentage wise irregularities clearances.

The Commission had accomplished the Irregularities Clearances up to Rs. 111,96,531.92, about 63 percent of the total arrears in the fiscal year 2014 from among various fiscal years as settled through auditing by the Office of the Auditor General Office (OAG), a constitutional body of Nepal.

Receipants of Honor (in descending order)

Mr. Bed Prasad Bhattarai, Acting Secretary
Mr. Bishnu Prasad Kharel (Account Officer)
Mr. Jitendra Karki (Accountant)
Mrs. Rara Karmacharya (Accountant)
Mr. Gyanendra Maharjan (Assistant)